

WAR NEWS.

A Confederate dispatch, dated Jackson, Mississippi, the 12th inst., says on the day previous, a Federal force of 12,000 men advanced on Raymond, where a body of Confederate troops, 4,100 strong, were stationed. A battle ensued, lasting two hours, when the Confederates fell back to Mississippi Springs, where it was expected they would receive reinforcements and make a stand.

On Friday last, two small steamers, running from Norfolk to North Carolina, through the Dismal Swamp Canal, were captured by the Confederates near Currituck bridge, 40 miles from Norfolk.

On the night of the 12th inst., a Federal force made a movement on Linden, Tenn., and captured 36 Confederate soldiers, a number of conscripts, and some army stores.

The Confederates at Charleston have succeeded in raising the guns of the Keokuk, and intend placing them in position on their fortifications.

An arrival from New Orleans brings advices to the 10th inst., but no news of importance. The reports of the capture of Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, and Alexandria are confirmed.

An authentic rumor from Murfreesboro' had reached Cincinnati that a severe battle, by land and water, has been fought at Vicksburg, and that the Federal forces were repulsed. The latest Confederate advices from Vicksburg are up to Thursday last, 11th inst., when all was reported quiet.

An Opelousas letter of the 5th states that information from Grand Gulf and the gunboat fleet under Admiral Porter had been received there, with details of its capture, and the capture of Port Gibson by Gen. Osterhaus. When the latter General was nearing Port Gibson, he was met by hundreds of families fleeing from the interior to escape the raid of the Illinois cavalry, and the prevalent opinion was that Port Gibson was the safest place in that region.

A Baton Rouge letter of May 2d states that Col. Grierson's force, the Sixth and Seventh Illinois cavalry, and a battery, numbering some nine hundred men, followed by several hundred negroes and a large number of prisoners, rode into the city on that day. This raid is said to have been a very successful one. The destruction done to stores, railroads, bridges, &c., is said to have been very great.

The official report of Lieut. Col. Davis, of the 12th Illinois cavalry, who commanded one of the divisions of Stoneman's forces in their late raid, states that the only loss they sustained was three commissioned officers and thirty-three enlisted men. They brought with them one hundred mules and seventy-five horses, besides destroying over a million dollars worth of property.

Gen. Stahl reports that there was a skirmish in front of Warrenton Junction on Thursday last. A small scouting party, sent out by Col. De Forrest, came across a party of Confederates in the house of Mr. Marsteller, about 5 miles from the Junction. Marsteller was instantly killed, and several of the Confederates were wounded. The Federals had three wounded, one seriously.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 14th inst. says that "five or six transports landed Federal troops at West Point on the 13th instant, who are throwing up entrenchments across the Point, from the Mattaponi to the Pamunkey river."

James C. McGuire, of the auction house of McGuire & Co., in Washington, was somewhat injured by a railroad accident near Elkton, on Thursday last. Mr. McGuire was hurt about the shoulders, but not disabled.

A Washington dispatch in the N. Y. Post says: "Gen. Hooker has gone back to Falmouth to prepare for another campaign. The Confederates are already upon their legs, and if we do not cross over and give them employment, they will soon move up towards Washington. This is the opinion of some of the best military men."

FROM PORT ROYAL, S. C.

The steamer Arago, from Port Royal on the 12th inst., has arrived at New York. Among her passengers are a large number of army officers. They report that nothing thus far has been undertaken against Charleston, except that occasionally a small gunboat runs in and draws the fire from the forts. The Confederates are making occasional raids on Dawfuskie, Seabrook and Bull's Island, but have obtained no signal advantage, as the force at these points is sufficiently large to meet them. There was no probability that anything will be done in the next thirty days against Charleston, as Gen. Hunter has furloughed four men from each company for thirty days. The fleet in the vicinity of Port Royal is not at present in a position to attack. The loss of the Keokuk, and the disabled Passaic, are seriously missed by the fleet, which lies now in the different creeks and inlets around Edisto. A few gunboats are stationed off Folly Island, and at the entrance to Skull Creek. The weather at Port Royal and Beaufort is described as excessively hot, more so than at this time last season, and as the soldiers are very careless as to exposure and diet, much sickness is anticipated. The negroes of late have become somewhat discontented, and some of them in uniform have declared that they will not fight unless they be paid like the white soldiers.—[Nat. Int.]

Great complaints are made in some of the Northern papers at the fabrications recently published as to a reported recrossing of the Rappahannock by Gen. Hooker, and even the capture of Richmond, which caused great rejoicings one day, and corresponding depression the next, when the falsity of the statements became known. In reference to these mysterious fabrications, the Springfield (Mass.) Republican: "There is something requiring explanation in the very positive and detailed accounts sent forward from Washington on Sunday as to another advance of General Hooker across the Rappahannock. They seemed incredible at the time, and yet they were got up in such explicit and matter of fact style as to deceive the most sagacious sifters of news.—Where did they come from? Who was the ingenious originator, and what was his object?"

A letter from Falmouth, published in the Northern papers, says: "The last of the Federal wounded left on the other side of the Rappahannock, have been brought over the river. As good care was taken of them while they remained in the Confederate lines, as could reasonably be expected. The medical stores sent over at the suggestion of Gen. Lee were taken possession of, but were issued to the surgeons on proper requisitions. All the dead of both armies have been buried."

The general tenor of advices from Mexico is unfavorable to the French, who had, on the 21st ult., made slight progress toward the capture of Puebla. The Mexicans were defending the place with desperate courage. Gen. Comonfort had received reinforcements, and was about to assume the offensive.

Though the Minnesotians have got rid of the Sioux who devastated some of the border settlements last year, and the Winnebagoes are also being removed to new homes in Dacotah, there is still much apprehension of Indian outrages this spring and the coming summer.

Quite an excitement occurred on the evening of the 7th at the opera, in New Orleans, occasioned by the audience demanding that the national airs be played; but nothing serious resulted. General Sherman has ordered all places of amusement hereafter to submit their programmes to the provost marshal prior to the performance, and has suggested that the national airs be played.

There was a large meeting in Albany, N. Y., on Saturday, to protest against the arrest and sentence of Mr. Vallandigham. Strong speeches were made by Hon. Amasa J. Parker, Hon. Francis Kernan, John Murphy, esq., of Buffalo, and others. Resolutions denouncing the arrest were adopted. A letter was then read from Governor Seymour characterizing the arrest as "an act which has brought dishonor upon our country, which is full of danger to our persons and our homes, and which bears upon its front conscious violation of law and justice." During the day a feeling of opposition to the meeting among some of the returned soldiers was clearly manifest, and soon after the organization, the evidences of dissatisfaction were shown among the soldiers present. The speakers were interrupted by their noisy demonstrations, and finally they made a rush for the stage.—Great excitement prevailed for a short time, and the proceedings were brought to a stand still. The chairs on the stage were broken in pieces and thrown in the crowd, and for a few minutes it seemed as if the soldiers would gain possession of the stand and drive the civilians off. The soldiers were in small force, however, and finally retired, when order was once more restored and the proceedings resumed, although not without occasional interruptions. Eventually quiet was fully restored, and the meeting carried on peacefully.

Fight at Charlestown, Va.

BALTIMORE, May 17.—On Friday night a company of U. S. cavalry was surprised and captured at Charlestown, Jefferson co., Va. Major General Schenck, on being informed by telegraph of the disaster, immediately ordered General Milroy to send out a force to intercept and attack the Confederates. On the night of the same day Major General Milroy telegraphed the following:

WINCHESTER, May 16, 11.30 p. m.—To Major General Schenck: The Federal cavalry captured at Charlestown were recaptured by detachments of the Virginia and Thirteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, under Captain Utt, this afternoon at three o'clock, at Piedmont Station, in Fauquier county. We also captured a party of rebels and a corresponding number of horses. Two rebels were killed. I regret to add that we lost Captain Utt and one sergeant. Our cavalry recaptured one Federal lieutenant and fifty privates and their horses. Major Adams, of the First New York cavalry, who arrived after the capture, is still in pursuit of the rebels. The Virginia and Pennsylvania cavalry who made the recapture were sent out by me yesterday.

R. H. MILROY, Major General.  
A telegram since received from Gen. Kelley, dated Grafton, Virginia, May 17, states:

"A company of militia of Barbour county, have just come in with seventeen of Imboden's men, captured in that county, who had straggled behind the retreating column to steal horses, &c."

B. F. KELLEY, Brigadier General.

The yearly meeting of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia, closed on Friday last. The meeting was attended by members from the country and by representatives of nearly a dozen Quarterly meetings scattered throughout the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. An unusually large number of ministers, belonging to meetings of other States, were also present, among whom were Samuel Janney, of Loudoun county Va., and Rachel Hicks and Richard Cromwell, of New York.

Wm. T. Smithson, a banker in Washington, has been arrested by the detectives, and sent to the old Capitol prison for dealing in Confederate money, &c.

The Pittsburg papers record the destruction of 10,000 bbls. of oil, by fire, at the mouth of Oil Creek. Loss \$75,000.